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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft - another word for dictatorship

I would like to present a few comments regarding the proposed settlement offered by Microsoft Corporation in its court case.

I firmly believe that Microsoft Corporation has a commitment to a policy of world domination in the computer realm. All the past actions of Microsoft indicate that the company has an embedded policy of control of the computer and computer software industries to the end that Microsoft products will be the only products available to the computer using world.

Microsoft has engaged in manipulation of software functioning and content through financial actions such as purchasing the rights to programs and then suppressing the functions and content by deliberately denying those functions and content to computer users by not including those functions and contents in Microsoft products. Functions and content have also been altered so that they will not perform as originally created to perform, or have been so altered that they will not perform in any venue except a Microsoft venue, thereby denying their usefulness to the computer using public.

An example of these actions is plainly visible in the recent information release of the proposed WMA programs and devices. WMA programs are designed to deliberately alter MP3 sound files so the files will no longer perform properly on an MP3 device. The resultant WMA converted file will only perform properly on a WMA device and cannot be reverted back to its original form because of the proprietary programming that Microsoft has created.

This move, creating a completely incompatible MP3 alteration program, indicates that Microsoft Corporation intends to invade the MP3 device market with an overwhelming effort. The intention could be to eliminate all MP3 market devices and replace them with WMA devices which are the intellectual and marketing property of Microsoft, thereby creating another monopolistic situation.

Microsoft Corporation will attempt to assuage the concerns of individuals and government offices by stating that their devices work in conjunction with PC format computers and are an enhancement for those devices. Microsoft will not admit that the MP3 alteration program is irreversible or that it will be made available to the buying public as a "loss leader" sale item.

Microsoft Corporation should not be permitted to continue its policy of domination through repression and denial. Microsoft should be forced to reveal the source code being used in its programs so that free enterprise developers will have the opportunities to create products and software that competes freely with Microsoft products.

Microsoft should be forced to separate the functions of software program creation and computer operating system production to enable private enterprise development of competing products.

The penalty phase of this issue should be made effective against Microsoft and cause the corporation to make appropriate redress of the wrongs it has already committed. Microsoft should not be permitted to continue to defraud the government and the courts by "giving" Microsoft products and software to a market area that Microsoft has not had a history of effective past presence.

Allowing Microsoft to buy its way out of any penalty by "donating" outdated and refurbished equipment and software to schools is not an effective penalty. It only allows Microsoft to freely establish itself in an area and provides further domination of the computer market by creating a situation where children would be exposed to only Microsoft products and programs. This would help to create another market segment, the children become future Microsoft product users through their introduction and indoctrination to those products while in school, which would ensure the monopoly that Microsoft is attempting to continue.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I hope that a sensible and proper adjudication of the monopoly suit will be reached and that proper penalties will be assessed against Microsoft Corporation for its egregious business practices.

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